



HALESWORTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T S

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SURVEYOR/PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1968

Medical Officer of Health

ARTHUR C. GEE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Surveyor/Public Health Inspector

F.W.Y. BUCKLEY, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

HALESWORTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

DR. ARTHUR C. GEE, M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Town Hall,
Halesworth.

Medical Officer of Health.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Halesworth Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report on the health of your district for the year 1968.

There has been a still further increase in the population from 2,760 in 1967, to 2,930 in 1968. The Adjusted Birth Rate of 17.7 is above that for England and Wales as a whole, as also is the Death Rate. The causes of death follow the National trend, with diseases of the heart and circulation heading the list. The rather high figures, compared with the figures for England and Wales, shown for the infant Mortality Rates, the Neo-Natal and Early Neo-Natal Rates, are due to the very small numbers involved which results in the calculated values working out high. There was in fact only one death recorded which came within these categories, and this was due to a congenital abnormality. It is pleasing to record that there were no Still Births and no Maternal Deaths.

The only infectious disease notified during the year was Measles. The tables showing the age of these cases is interesting, as is that showing the period of the year in which the cases occurred. Practically all the cases were in children under the age of 9 years, but a considerable number did occur in very young children, an age when its after effects can lead to subsequent ill health. For a variety of reasons immunisation against Measles was not very extensively carried out during the year under review. It is hoped that it will become as popular as the other inoculations against infectious fevers now are, in the very near future.

There was little change in the Tuberculosis Register.

Having now completed my first year as your Medical Officer may I conclude this Report by thanking you for the interest you have

/shown

shown in those aspects of the work of your Health Committee which have come within my province. The more routine work of the Authority in the Sanitary field has been ably carried out by your Public Health Inspector, to whose report I would refer you for details.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient Servant,

ARTHUR C. GEE,

Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1969.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres).....	1,107
Registrar-General's estimate of population (Mid-1968).....	2,930
Number of inhabited houses (estimated).....	1,101
Rateable Value.....	£93,310
Product of Penny Rate (estimated).....	£370

	Halesworth Urban District	England & Wales
<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>		
Number.....	47	-
Rate per 1000 population	16.0	16.9
<u>ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS</u> per cent of total live births.....	2.13	-
<u>STILLBIRTHS</u>		
Number	Nil	-
Rate per 1000 total live and still births.....	-	14
<u>TOTAL LIVE AND STILLBIRTHS</u>	47	-
<u>INFANT DEATHS</u> (deaths under 1 year).....	1	-
<u>INFANT MORTALITY RATES</u>		
Total infant deaths per 1000 total live births.....	21.3	18
Legitimate infant deaths per 1000 legitimate live births.....	21.3	-
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1000 illegitimate live births.....	Nil	-
<u>NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE</u> (deaths under 4 weeks per 1000 total live births).....	21.3	12.3
<u>EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE</u> (deaths under 1 week per 1000 live births).....	21.3	10.5
<u>PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE</u> (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1000 total live and stillbirths).....	21.3	25
<u>MATERNAL MORTALITY</u> (including abortion)		
Number of deaths.....	Nil	-
Rate per 1000 total live and stillbirths.....	Nil	-

VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS	Male	Female	TOTAL
TOTAL.....	21	26	47
Legitimate.....	21	25	46
Illegitimate.....	-	1	1

STILLBIRTHS	Male	Female	TOTAL
TOTAL.....	-	-	-
Legitimate.....	-	-	-
Illegitimate.....	-	-	-

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE	Male	Female	TOTAL
TOTAL	-	1	1
Legitimate.....	-	1	1
Illegitimate.....	-	-	-

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS OF AGE	Male	Female	TOTAL
TOTAL	-	1	1
Legitimate.....	-	1	1
Illegitimate.....	-	-	-

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 WEEK OF AGE	Male	Female	TOTAL
TOTAL	-	1	1
Legitimate	-	1	1
Illegitimate.....	-	-	-

	Male	Female	TOTAL
DEATHS - ALL AGES	23	26	49

R A T E S

	Halesworth Urban District	England & Wales
Illegitimacy rate (per 1000 Live births)....	21.3	-
Adjusted Birth Rate	17.7	-
Death rate per 1000 estimated population ...	16.7	11.9
Adjusted Death Rate	18.0	-

Comparability Factor (Births) 1.11
 " " (Deaths) 1.08

CAUSES OF INFANT DEATHS

Sex	Age	Cause of Deaths
F	Under 4 weeks	Congenital Abnormality.

CAUSES OF DEATH

CAUSES OF DEATH	Male	Female	TOTAL
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-	-
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-
5. Whooping cough	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	2	2
7. Acute poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8. Measles	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	-	-	-
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	-	2
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	1	1
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	2	2
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasm	4	2	6
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-
16. Diabetes	-	-	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	-	-	-
18. Coronary disease, angina	10	7	17
19. Hypertension with heart disease	-	-	-
Carried forward	16	14	30

CAUSES OF DEATH		Male	Female	TOTAL
	Brought forward	16	14	30
20.	Other heart disease	-	2	2
21.	Other circulatory diseases	2	3	5
22.	Influenza	-	2	2
23.	Pneumonia	1	3	4
24.	Bronchitis	2	-	2
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	-	-	-
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-	-
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-	-
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-	-
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	-	1	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	-	-	-
33.	Motor Vehicle accidents	-	-	-
34.	All other accidents	2	1	3
35.	Suicide	-	-	-
36.	Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
		23	26	49

ADJUSTED BIRTH AND DEATH RATE : COMPARABILITY FACTOR

Local birth rates are expressed in terms of population. These populations are estimated by the Registrar General and comprise persons of all ages, including those who have no influence on the birth rate. These latter do, however, affect the birth rate in that a high proportion of them in a population tends to lower, and a small proportion tends to raise the true rate. The size of this proportion will vary in different areas and, therefore, the elimination or standardization of such a factor will give a truer comparison between areas.

The Registrar General issues a comparability factor on these lines. Multiplication of the crude birth rate of an area by the comparability factor gives the adjusted birth rate and can be compared with the crude rate for England and Wales.

The comparability factor for deaths is obtained in a similar way to the above. The factors for certain areas, where rapid increase or reduction in the population materially affects its comparison by sex and age groups, are also adjusted on that account. Death rate area comparability factors are adjusted to take account of the presence of any residential institutions in each area. Birth rate area comparability factors are also adjusted to take account of the presence of sterile populations in institutions for the mentally ill or mentally deficient.

TABLE SHOWING THE MORE IMPORTANT CAUSES OF DEATH, NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGES

CAUSE OF DEATH	NO. OF DEATHS		PERCENTAGE	
	1967	1968	1967	1968
Diseases of circulatory system	22	26	55.0	53.1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	5	-	12.5	-
Malignant diseases	8	11	20.0	22.4
Pneumonia and Bronchitis	-	4	-	8.1
Influenza	2	2	5.0	4.1
All other causes	3	6	7.5	12.3
TOTAL	40	49	100.0	100.0

In 1968, 75.5% of all deaths fell under the first three headings.
The comparable figure for 1967 was 87.5% and for 1966 was 54.7%.

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS

	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
Population	2350	2350	2400	2250	2290	2340	2440	2570	2660	2760	2930
No. of inhabited houses.	752	768	798	803	837	869	931	977	1042	1051	1101
No. of Live Births	26	37	39	30	36	30	36	40	41	52	47
Birth Rate (crude)	11.0	15.7	16.25	13.3	15.7	12.7	14.7	15.56	15.4	18.8	16.0
No. of Stillbirths	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	0
Maternal Mortality	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Infant Mortality Rate ..	0	0	0	0	27.7	66.6	27.7	0	0	0	21.3
(No. of Deaths).....	(-)	(-)	(-)	(-)	(1)	(2)	(1)	(-)	(-)	(-)	(-)
No. of Deaths (All ages)	21	19	26	22	27	34	28	30	31	40	49
Death Rate (Crude).....	8.9	8.0	10.83	9.8	11.7	14.5	11.5	11.67	11.6	14.5	16.7

Infectious Diseases

Number of all confirmed cases of Infectious and other notifiable Diseases notified during the year 1968 according to age and sex.

AGE	Measles		
	Male	Female	TOTAL
Under 1	1	1	2
1 -	4	7	11
2 -	4	2	6
3 -	3	6	9
4 -	4	4	8
5 - 9	24	16	40
10 - 14	-	-	-
15 - 24	-	1	1
25 - 44	-	1	1
45 - 64	-	-	-
65 or over	-	-	-
TOTAL	40	38	78

Diseases notified during the year, classified according to month of occurrence

Month	Measles
January	-
February	-
March	-
April	-
May	1
June	1
July	36
August	40
September	-
October	-
November	-
December	-
TOTAL	78

TUBERCULOSIS

	Males		Females		TOTAL
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	
No. of cases on the Register at 31st December, 1967.....	2	2	5	1	10
No. of cases added during the year.....	-	-	-	-	-
No. of cases removed during the year	-	1	1	-	2
No. of cases on the Register at 31st December, 1968.....	2	1	4	1	8

CASES ADDED TO THE REGISTER		CASES REMOVED FROM THE REGISTER	
New notifications	-	Recovered	1
Inward transfers.....	-	Died	-
		Removed to other areas	1
TOTAL	-	TOTAL	2

CASES ON THE REGISTER, ACCORDING TO AGE AND SEX AT 31st DECEMBER, 1968.

AGE GROUP	Male	Female	Total
Under 5 years	-	-	-
5 - 14 years	-	-	-
15 - 24 years	-	-	-
25 - 44 years	1	2	3
45 - 64 years	1	1	2
65 years and over	1	2	3
Age unknown.....	-	-	-
TOTAL	3	5	8

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR/PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR
THE YEAR 1968

Mr. Chairman, Mesdames and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Report for the year 1968.

Water.

Water supply within the Urban District is under the control of the East Anglian Water Company. The principal sources of supply are from the boreholes at Molton and Walpole - these sources combine in a ring main to supply the towers at Bungay Road and London Road. The original source of supply, an artesian well in the grounds of the Pumping Station at Chediston Street, Halesworth, whilst not at present in use, could, I understand, be used in the event of an emergency.

15 Bacteriological samples and three chemical samples show that the water is very satisfactory for drinking and general purposes.

Number of houses supplied directly from mains.. .. .	1,075
Number of Shops supplied directly from mains	32
Number of Offices supplied directly from mains.	13
Combined Business and dwelling premises supplied directly from the mains	42

Total number of properties supplied with unmetered water 1,162

Number of Standpipes	3
Number of Hoses	98
Number of Metered supplies.	41
Number of houses not supplied from the main	2
Number of Miscellaneous properties (Churches etc).. .. .	29

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The Disposal Works, situated off the Bramfield Road, Halesworth, deal with sewage from the villages of Wissett, Holton and Blyford, in addition to the sewage from Halesworth.

Satisfactory results have been obtained from samples of effluent throughout the year - these results reflect the wisdom of having the Works enlarged, even though such enlargement is a comparatively costly operation but there is no doubt that, in the future, increasing emphasis will have to be made on waste disposal carried out in such a manner as to cause the minimum of inconvenience to the public.

The automatic screening which was introduced into the works has proved a considerable boon and has served to emphasize the lack of thought of some people using sewers. Whilst every effort is made to deal with trade wastes it

must be pointed out that sewers are not provided to pump ponds clear or as a disposal point for waste oil - the introduction of the latter to a Disposal Works can cause considerable damage and a resultant diminution in the efficiency of the Works over a considerable period.

Mention must be made of the heavy flooding which occurred in the Town in September, 1968. Whilst the effects of this flooding were more obvious in the centre of the Town, which suffered considerable damage, it was only due to very hard, long and sustained efforts that heavy damage was not incurred at the new Pumping Station, situated as it is between the main river and one of its main tributaries; work of sand bagging and ditching had to be carried on throughout the night of the floods.

Sludge burning has continued with considerable success, and whilst the new drying beds have incurred some cost for filtering material, it should be noted that the old beds are still surfaced with the ash from burnt sludge which has saved expenditure for filtering material on these beds.

The number of pail closets in the Town are now reduced to a very few - two are in an area not served by a public sewer, and it is to be hoped that the remaining four will be eliminated in the very near future.

Public Cleansing.

A weekly collection of household refuse is made by the Council employing two men and one Compression "Pakamatic" Refuse vehicle. In addition a weekly collection of trade refuse is carried out on one day a week using tractor and adapted trailer. Household refuse has been disposed of at a Tip at Mells using controlled tipping. Trade refuse is taken to a burning ground situated within the compound of the Sewage Disposal Works at Bramfield Road. It is anticipated that with the filling of the Tip at Mells that work of disposal will be commenced at a Tip at Cookley.

The problem of Refuse Disposal is rapidly becoming comparable to that of sewage disposal, and whilst it has now been accepted that sewage disposal and refuse collection is becoming an increasingly costly business, it is not always so easily acceptable that, within a very short period, the cost of refuse disposal will also increase rapidly. The more generally accepted method of disposal, tipping, is being rapidly superseded for two reasons, lack of tipping sites and change in the nature of refuse. The composition of refuse is changing and bulk is increasing with the advent of prepacked goods, disposable containers, etc., and these articles can create hazards on the normal Tip unless extreme care is taken.

Referring to the question of sites for Tipping, there is little doubt that every Authority is now carefully husbanding existing sites, searching diligently for fresh sites, and examining every alternative method of refuse disposal.

There are two alternatives, and these have been stated in my previous Reports. The formation of consortia of several Authorities for the installation of some form of destruction, to be situated at a central point for the participating Authorities, method of destruction, pulverisation, incineration, or some other method to be decided by the consortia. Whilst this would be more costly, it would have the saving grace of being more efficient and on a permanent site. The other alternative is to consider the huge excavations in the countryside where minerals have been extracted, these huge holes, once worked out would provide facilities for many years.

These are problem which will have to be considered by many Authorities in the future, refuse disposal is an increasing problem and where it has to be dealt with in large quantities you just cannot kick it about until you lose it.

Storm water gullies are emptied by tanker trailer. The operation is by vacuum and is satisfactory.

Street cleaning is carried out daily. Mechanical sweeping is done on the longer stretches of road on the outlying parts of the Town.

It is a sobering thought that the more civilisation advances the greater variety and amount of waste has to be dealt with.

Rodent Control.

One of the Council's employees has been trained in the work of Rodent Control and part of his time is allocated to this work as he is required.

There is a total of 1,425 premises in the Urban District area comprising private houses, commercial, industrial and educational undertakings. Complaints of rodent infestation are dealt with as they are received in this Office.

A total of 75 complaints were dealt with during the year.

Rat control at the Refuse Tips and Sewage Works was carried out.

Disinfestation.

This advice is available to the Public but few calls are made upon it.

Food Premises.

There are 10 premises registered for the sale of Ice Cream in the area. No ice cream is manufactured in the area.

There are four premises registered for the manufacture of sausages.

There are 39 food premises in the Area and 94 inspections were carried out during the year. On three occasions certain defects were pointed out which were rectified immediately.

The general standard of cleanliness is good and those responsible for the maintenance of this standard are to be complimented. So far as general food shops are concerned, the concern of employees is greatly reduced because an increasing number of commodities is pre-packed, but it is still surprising to find a number of customers who must try to handle food whilst they are deciding upon the purchase.

Meat and Food Inspection.

There is no slaughterhouse in the Urban area.

As has been stated in my previous Reports, standards of storage and display in Butchers Shops are maintaining a good level.

There is however, one small cloud which it must be emphasized, is not the fault of the Butcher. It is amazing the number of people, both sexes, who will persist in smoking in shops. On one occasion I was actually called upon to witness a woman shopper smoking a cigarette leaning over a meat display counter scattering ash and blowing smoke over the product displayed. It says much for the foresight of the Butcher that his display had, so far as was possible, guarded against this type of thoughtlessness.

Housing.

During the year 53 houses were inspected, 9 were found to be unsatisfactory in some respect. In these cases the necessary works to remedy the defects were carried out.

Two houses were demolished under Demolition Orders.

One undertaking not to re-let a house which was unfit for human habitation was accepted.

39 new houses were built by the Local Authority.

34 new houses were built by private enterprise.

4 families were re-housed from unfit houses.

2 Discretionary Grants and four Standard Grants were made during the year.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Part 1 of the Act

1. Inspection for purposes of provisions as to Health.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
1. Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be en- forced by Local Authorities.....	6	18	Nil	Nil
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Sec- tion 7 is enforced by the Local Authority..	31	90	Nil	Nil
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (Ex- cluding out-workers' premises).....	9	16	Nil	Nil
Total	46	124	Nil	Nil

2. Cases in which defects were found

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	<u>Referred</u> To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (1)..... Overcrowding (S.2).. Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)..... Inadequate ventilation (S.4)..... Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)..... Sanitary Conveniences (S.7): (a) Insufficient... (b) Unsuitable or defective.... (c) Not separate for sexes.... Other offences against the Act (Not including offences relating to Outwork).....	NIL				

Part V111 of the Act

Sections 133 and 134 - a "NIL" RETURN.

OFFICES SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

The Registration of premises under the above Act has been continued and the following Statistics are submitted:-

Offices	36
Retail Shops.. .. .	55
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	11
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens.. .. .	6
Fuel storage depots	1
<u>Total number of visits made to Registered Premises</u>	<u>141</u>

Analysis of persons employed in Registered Premises by

Workplaces:

Offices	136
Retail Shops.. .. .	166
Wholesale departments, Warehouses.	32
Catering establishments open to the public	14
Canteens.. .. .	12
Fuel storage depots	2

Total.. .. .	<u>362</u>
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<u>Total Males:</u>	<u>184</u>
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<u>Total Females:</u>	<u>178</u>
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I am, Sirs and Mesdames,

Your obedient Servant,

F.W.Y. BUCKLEY,

Surveyor/Public Health Inspector.

